

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed concurrently with a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/014,553, filed December 14, 2001. Claims 12-21 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

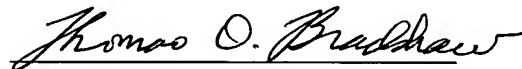
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

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A check in the amount of \$770.00 to cover the basic filing fee is enclosed. It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with the filing of this Divisional application. However, if it is determined otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206. Please note that the Attorney Docket Number is 46417.001027.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 19, 2003


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